

**From:** Spencer Crissman  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/25/02 10:29am  
**Subject:** Against Current Settlement

I am writing to convey my disagreement with the currently proposed settlement of the Microsoft antitrust case. I believe that the settlement, as it stands now, would not suffice to prevent Microsoft from continuing to use their monopolistic power in a way which, while beneficial to themselves, has a negative impact on innovative development within the software market.

As a computer programmer, I believe that a better remedy is one which provides an opportunity for other companies and individuals to compete with MS on even footing, such as the forcing the company to reveal the .doc and .xls formats, as well as making all API's and protocols such as networking public. This would ensure that while MS is able to put out products which work well on its platforms, other developers have a chance to release software which works just as well, and can potentially help break the monopoly which MS now holds.

Also, note that I believe that any proposal of MS to pay punitive fines via the donation of its software and/or machines which run its operating system is absurd, as such action would serve only to extend their monopoly further, a fact of which they are no doubt aware. Such offers are hollow at best, and for the most part, insulting.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration in this matter.

Spencer Crissman  
Toledo, OH